

BOX DAC

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant: DePoorter et al)
)
Appln No.: Unassigned (U.S. National)
Stage of PCT/US98/06854)
)
Filed:)
)
For: Patch Bag Having Seal)
Through Patches)

Office of the Deputy Assistant
Commissioner for Patents

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Crystal Park One
Suite 520

Attorney Docket No.: D-42716-01 WO

520 Rec'd PCT/PTO 21 DEC 1999

RECEIVED

23 FEB 2000

**Legal Staff
International Division**

**PETITION FOR REVIVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR PATENT
UNINTENTIONALLY ABANDONED UNDER 37 CFR 1.137(b)**

Box DAC
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to complete the requirements of 35 USC 371(c) within the time period set in 37 CFR 1.495(b). More specifically, the above-identified application is the national stage of an international PCT application for which entry into the United States should have been completed by 30 months from the priority date, i.e., by 30 months from the filing on April 4, 1997 of U.S. provisional application number 60/042,664. More specifically, this application should have been filed by October 4, 1999. This application had therefore become abandoned on October 4, 1999.

Applicants hereby petition for revival of this application.

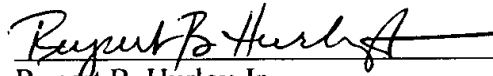
- (1) Attached to this Petition are all necessary documents for completing the filing of this application, i.e., for completing entry into the United States of PCT application PCT/US97/16522;

- (2) Please charge Deposit Account No. 07/1765 in the amount of \$1210.00 for the Petition Fee, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17(m), large entity, and any other fees that may be required;
- (3) The entire delay in filing the required reply or other required action, from the due date for the reply or other action, until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to paragraph 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional.

In summary, Applicant hereby petitions for the late acceptance of the application papers for entry into the U.S. national stage of PCT/US98/06854 and the revival of this application as having become unintentionally abandoned.

Any comments or questions can be directed to Applicants' undersigned attorney at telephone number (864) 433-3247.

Respectfully submitted,

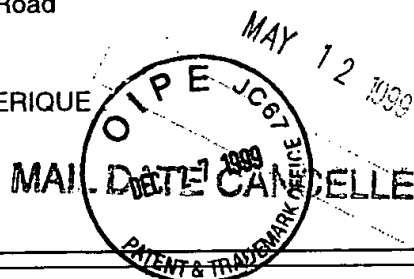

Rupert B. Hurley Jr.
Registration No. 29,313

December 21, 1999
CRYOVAC, INC.
P. O. Box 464
Duncan, SC 29334
(864) 433-3247

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

HURLEY, Rupert, B., Jr.
100 Rogers Bridge Road
P.O. Box 464
Duncan, SC 29334
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE



Seal Thru
Patch

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

0 6.05.99

Applicant's or agent's file reference
D-42716-01

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/US98/06854

International filing date (day/month/year)
03/04/1998

Priority date (day/month/year)
04/04/1997

Applicant

CRYOVAC INCORPORATED et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/

European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich

Authorized officer

Loeper, S





PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference D-42716-01		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US98/06854	International filing date (day/month/year) 03/04/1998	Priority date (day/month/year) 04/04/1997	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B65D75/00			
Applicant CRYOVAC INCORPORATED et al.			
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>			
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 			

Date of submission of the demand 03/11/1998	Date of completion of this report 0 6. 05. 99
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich	Authorized officer Felgenhauer, H-P 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US98/06854

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.)*:

Description, pages:

1-29 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-23 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/6-6/6 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US98/06854

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1 - 23
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	21, 22
	No:	Claims	1 - 20, 23
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1 - 23
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US98/06854

To section V

1. The following documents are considered:
D1.....GB-A-2 291 402
D2.....WO-A-96 00688.
2. The application does not meet the requirements of Article 84 EPC, because claims 1, 2 and 14 are not clear as indicated in section VIII.
3. Furthermore as indicated in connection with the lack of clarity in section VIII, paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2 , insofar as the present text can be understood, the subject-matters of claims 1 and 14 do not involve an inventive step, and therefore do not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(3) PCT.
4. An independent product and method claim clarified as indicated in section VIII should satisfy the requirements of Article 33 (2) and (3) PCT since none of the available documents gives an indication leading to a patch bag having only one seal extending through the sides of the bag as well as the patch(es) such that - under the conditions/parameters to be defined - the seal has the desired strength as e.g. defined in claim 2.
5. The additional features of claims 3 - 13 do not define the parameters required to clearly define the subject-matter of claim 1 or claim 2. Since they furthermore relate to properties coming, depending on circumstances, within regular design practice they cannot be considered as satisfying the requirement of Article 33 (3) PCT. This applies correspondingly with regard to claims 15 - 20 and 23.
6. The process parameters defined within claims 21, 22 are, within the process according to claim 14, not suggested by the prior art such that, in combination (due to reasons of clarity, cf. section VIII), claims 21, 22 should satisfy the requirement of Article 33 (2) and (3) PCT.

To section VII

- 1.1 The independent claims have not been properly cast in the two-part form (Rule

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US98/06854

6.3 (b) PCT), starting e.g. from D1.

- 1.2 Reference signs in parentheses should have been inserted in the claims to increase their intelligibility, Rule 6.2(b) PCT. This applies to both the preamble and characterising portion.
- 1.3 To meet the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the documents D1 and D2 should have been identified in the description and the relevant background art disclosed therein should have been briefly discussed.
- 1.5 The units inch, psi, °F, mils expressed on pages 1 - 6, 16, 17, 20, 22, 26 and the claims do not meet the requirements of Rule 10.1 (a, b) PCT and should have been replaced by the appropriate SI units. The present expressions should, however, have been retained in parentheses after the replacement expressions.
- 1.7 Within the figures reference numerals (cf. e.g. the figures as filed with the application) are missing.

To section VIII

- 1.1 Claim 1 is not clear (Article 6 PCT) since it is not clearly indicated under which conditions (e.g. material of the bag and patches; parameters of heat sealing etc; cf. claims 21, 22) the only seal is provided on the end seal bag. Cf. D1, page 2, line 25 - page 3, line 2, where it is indicated that "sealing by passing heat through one or more patches is undesirable because such seals are not as strong as seals made through the bag alone".

Thus a clear definition of the subject-matter of claim 1, and also to distinguish claim 1 clearly from the prior art attempt disclosed in D1, requires that the parameters which - contrary to the known approach - make it possible that the only seal provided, which goes through the patch(es) as well as both sides of the bag, has the required strength (e.g. as defined in claim 2).

Definition of these parameters is also required in order that the problem (cf. page 1, lines 21 - 25) is solved. For this problem being solved it furthermore is required

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US98/06854

that within claim 1 the strength of the seal is defined as it is the case for claim 2 (cf. also page 1, lines 29 - 32).

- 1.2 Without the clear definition referred to above the subject-matter of claim 1 needs to be considered as being obvious in view of the (unsuccessful) approach disclosed in D1, since the teaching of present claim 1 essentially does not go beyond the description of the unsuccessful attempt in D1 (page 2, line 29 - page 3, line 2). This applies for corresponding reasons with regard to claims 2 and 14.
- 1.3 Claims 2 and 14 are unclear for reasons corresponding to the ones given with respect to claim 1 and furthermore since, contrary to claim 1, the essential feature is missing according to which the seal referred to is the only one (cf. page 1, lines 21 - 25; page 2, lines 6, 7).
- 1.4 Claim 14 furthermore is unclear since contrary to the subject-matter of claim 1 and of claim 2 essential material properties are missing, according to which the tubular bag film as well as the patch film are heat-shrinkable.
- 1.5 The additional features of claim 15: provision of a first and a second sealing bar as means for heating, appear as being essential for the process according to claim 14 and are thus missing in this claim.
2. The general statement in the description at page 29, lines 23 - 27 (reference to "principles" of the invention) is not clear, and when used to interpret the claims renders them also unclear, contrary to Article 6 PCT.

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

LAGALY, WASATONIC, QUATT, HURLEY
JR., BURLESON
100 Rogers Bridge Road
P.O. Box 464
Duncan, SC 29334
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

MAIL DATE CANCELLED
O I P E J C 6 7
PATENT & TRADEMARKDate of mailing
(day/month/year)

24/08/1998

Applicant's or agent's file reference

42716/PCT

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.

PCT/US 98/ 06854

International filing date
(day/month/year)

03/04/1998

Applicant

CRYOVAC INCORPORATED et al.

- 1.
- ☒
- The applicant is hereby notified that the International Search Report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

- 2.
- ☐
- The applicant is hereby notified that no International Search Report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

- 3.
- ☐
- With regard to the protest**
- against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicants's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

- 4.
- Further action(s):**
- The applicant is reminded of the following:

Shortly after **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later).

Within **20 months** from the priority date, the applicant must perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before all designated Offices which have not been elected in the demand or in a later election within 19 months from the priority date or could not be elected because they are not bound by Chapter II.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

John Berry

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 42716/PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 98/ 06854	International filing date (day/month/year) 03/04/1998	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 04/04/1997
Applicant CRYOVAC INCORPORATED et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 03 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (see Box I).
2. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).
3. ☐ The international application contains disclosure of a **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing** and the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing
 - ☐ filed with the international application.
 - ☐ furnished by the applicant separately from the international application,
 - ☐ but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ Transcribed by this Authority
4. With regard to the title, ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:
5. With regard to the abstract,
 - ☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant
 - ☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this International Search Report, submit comments to this Authority.
6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is:
 Figure No. 1 ☒ as suggested by the applicant. ☐ None of the figures.
☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

Modifications in the following lines of the text:

3. ...patch bag (14)... ...film (18)...
4. ...heat-shrinkable patch (22)...
5. ...seal (26)...

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 B65D75/00 B65D75/26

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 B65D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	GB 2 291 402 A (GRACE W R & CO) 24 January 1996 see abstract; claims; figures see page 38, line 26 - page 39, line 8 see page 23, line 25 - page 25, line 12 see page 37, line 24 - page 38, line 19 ---	1-23
A	WO 96 00688 A (GRACE W R & CO) 11 January 1996 see page 19, line 1 - page 20, line 7; claims; figures -----	1-14

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 August 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

24/08/1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

SERRANO GALARRAGA, J

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
GB 2291402	A	24-01-1996	US	55454 A	13-08-1996
			AU	2509 A	01-02-1996
			CA	2154240 A	22-01-1996
			DE	19527800 A	04-04-1996
			FR	2722763 A	26-01-1996

WO 9600688	A	11-01-1996	AU	2952295 A	25-01-1996
			BR	9508136 A	25-11-1997
			CA	2193982 A	11-01-1996
			EP	0766635 A	09-04-1997
